

58 African, Caribbean nations to get new US trade benefits

WASHINGTON, Oct 3: The United States said yesterday that it would extend new trade benefits to 58 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Central America as part of a landmark initiative aimed at spurring US commerce with many of the world's poorest nations, says Reuters.

The administration said 34 African nations, including South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda, and 24 Caribbean and central American countries, including Haiti, Guatemala and El Salvador, had qualified for greater duty free access to the US market under the legislation, which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in May.

The benefits will apply to a wide range of products, from footwear to canned tuna, and eventually to T-shirts, brassieres and other apparel items, once a review of customs and visa systems in the eligible countries is completed.

US officials said 14 African nations will be excluded from the trade programme, including the Ivory Coast, Gambia and Zimbabwe, because of political instability or failure to carry out economic reform.

The Clinton administration

also warned Guatemala that it could lose some or all of the benefits unless it allowed workers to organise, and Washington promised to keep pressure on El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to improve labour standards.

Passage of the bill in May was a major trade policy victory for Clinton, who visited Africa in spring 1998.

In a statement issued by the White House on Monday, Clinton said the initiative would "help promote economic development, alleviate global poverty, and create new economic opportunities for American workers and businesses."

But critics said the legislation did not go far enough and complained that it set caps on imports of textiles from eligible countries to protect US clothing makers. Some African officials said provisions calling for economic reform impinged on their sovereignty.

Under the legislation, the United States will extend duty free, quota free benefits to a variety of products made in Africa. But increased access to the US apparel market is contingent on certification that the countries have adequate cus-

tom and visa systems in place, US officials said.

Once they meet these requirements, clothing made in Africa from African fabric will receive the benefits up to a cap set initially at 1.5 per cent of US clothing imports and rising to 3.5 per cent by 2008.

The poorest countries in Africa will receive all the trade benefits, with no restrictions on the source of fabric for four years. For Mauritius and Kenya, the measure will remove existing US quotas on textile and apparel imports.

The White House said the measure would eventually boost African apparel trade by billions of dollars. African made shipments of apparel could surge to \$4.2 billion by 2008 from the current \$250 million, according to US estimates.

Under the bill, the United States will also provide duty free, quota-free benefits to apparel made in the Caribbean and central America from US yarn and fabric.

But the benefits again will be capped for apparel made from regional fabric and are contingent on strengthened customs and visa systems.

Other central American products will also benefit, from

petroleum products to wrist watches.

Costa Rican President Miguel Angel Rodriguez said the legislation would help a region hit hard by hurricanes that killed more than 11,000 people in 1998.

For El Salvador alone, the bill could create 100,000 new apparel industry jobs over the next three to four years and triple textile exports to between \$3.5 billion and \$4 billion, according to Ambassador Rene Leon.

US trade officials said they would review labour conditions in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua by June 30, 2001. Guatemala's status will be reviewed in April 2001, and officials said the country could be denied future trade benefits if it ignores worker rights.

While Sierra Leone has qualified for the trade privileges, US officials said they could be delayed due to fighting. The 14 African countries that were deemed ineligible were: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo and Zimbabwe.

Pakistan needs consistent policy to woo FDI, says economist

ISLAMABAD, Oct 3: Cash strapped Pakistan needs to streamline its policies and improve its image to attract crucial foreign direct investment, a senior economist said today, reports Reuters.

A R Kemal, director of the private Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, also told reporters that the failure of successive governments to provide consistent policies had caused a huge loss of crucial investment.

"Pakistan has a potential of attracting \$5 billion in investment each year, but that will not come unless governments follow a consistent policy and investment perceptions improve," Kemal said at the release of an annual UN investment report.

The report said Pakistan received \$531 million in foreign investment last year compared with \$507 million in 1998, the year Islamabad carried out nuclear blasts in response to similar tests by arch-rival India.

Pakistan's investment perceptions have also been hit hard by a bitter dispute with the independent power producers, a major source of direct foreign investment between 1996 to 1998.

The dispute over tariffs and changed policies has also strained relations with the

International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the main lenders to Islamabad.

"Generally, people feel it is risky to invest in this region," said Kemal, adding India had also been receiving far less investment than its economic potential warranted.

According to the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, foreign direct investment by transnational corporations into developing Asia totalled \$106 billion in 1999.

But only \$3.2 billion went to South Asia, including \$2.2 billion to India, \$150 million to Bangladesh and \$531 to Pakistan.

"In the longer term, the subregion has great foreign direct investment potential. Its realisation will depend very much on the pace of liberalisation and economic reform, as well as on domestic and regional stability," the report said.

Kemal said hostilities between nuclear capable India and Pakistan, who has fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947, is a major problem for investors.

The disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir is seen as a flashpoint between the countries.

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's (Standard Chartered Bank) foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to clients
Central Bank Buying And Selling Rate of USD: BDT 53.85/BDT 54.15.

Selling		Currency		Buying	
TT/USD	BC	TT/Clean	00 Sign	00 Transfer	00 Transfer
54.2500	54.2800	USD	53.8150	53.8450	53.8750
48.1538	48.2407	EUR	46.3749	46.1915	46.1149
80.1442	80.1862	GBP	78.3574	78.0909	78.0363
30.6005	30.6251	AUD	27.5989	27.5065	27.4264
0.5059	0.5060	JPY	0.4880	0.4878	0.4868
31.4765	31.5010	CHF	30.7763	30.6818	30.5973
5.5969	5.6020	SEK	5.5008	5.4832	5.4672
36.2346	36.2592	CAD	35.3752	35.2815	35.1983
6.9943	6.9956	HKD	6.8703	6.8526	6.8352
31.603	31.6242	SGD	30.4548	30.4110	30.3664
14.8919	14.9095	AED	14.5023	14.5242	14.4838
14.3799	14.5983	SAR	14.2425	14.2058	14.1876

US dollar export bills

TT/USD	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7041	53.7272	52.9304	52.4217	51.8688	50.6303

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar

Indian	Pak	Thail	Mal	Indo	NZ
Rupee	Rupee	Baht	Ringit	Rupiah	Dollar
46.01/	58.10/	42.39/	3.7995/	8775/	0.4062/
46.07	58.60	42.44	3.8005	8785	0.4069

US Dollar

Buying	Selling	Months	6.62	6.80438	6.75	6.77188
Cash rate	53.6150	54.2800	USD	6.07219	6.17813	6.26875
TC	53.5650	54.2600	GBP			

Shipping Intelligence

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 3.10.2000

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local agent	Date of Leaving
J/1	Shun Cheng	GI (S. Ash)	Lian	Concord	22/9
J/2	Anje Jiang	GI	HCHC	BDSHIP	23/9
J/3	Topaz	GI	YANG	PROG	23/9
J/4	Bay Pride	Rice (P/GI)	Yang	SMSL	16/9
J/5	Bao Yun Shan (48)	GI (S.C)	Yang	RML	26/9
J/6	Argus	R Seed	Royal	Royal	11/9
J/7	World Amber	Wheat (P/GI)	Sing	ELC	24/8
J/8	Eros	Sugar (G)	Sing	Fortune	16/9
J/9	Al Bauraq	Gypsum	Peng	Seacom	4/9
J/10	Aptamariner	GI	Dali	Seagory	8/9
J/11	OSG Alpha	Cont	Sing	RSL	24/9
J/12	Jaan	Cont	Sing	Cross	27/9
J/13	Pavonis	GI (S.C)	Pipa	SMSL	13/9
CCT/2	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil/BDI	29/9
CCT/3	Jaya Mars	Cont	Col	Everest	27/9
RM/15	North Star II	Cement	SBS	R/A	6/10
TSP	Natcha Naree	R Sulp	B Abb	Seacom	1/10
RM/6	Daihung	SKO/JP-1	Sing	MSTPL	3/10
DD	Banglar Shikha	Repair	Sing	BSC	20/9
DD/1	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	Sing	BSC	R/A
RM/9	Banglar Shourab	Repair	Sing	BSC	R/A
CUPL/1	Mary Nour	Cement	Lank	BSL	27/9

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Xpress Resolve (Cont)	21/9	3/10	Sing	RSL	Cont
Chu Hong (Cont)	24/9	3/10	Sing	QCSL	Cont
Xpress Padma (Cont)	13/09/00	3/10	Sing	RSL	Cont
Eltanin	3/10	3/10	Sing	PSAL	C Clunk (Diamond)
PU Aspirin	3/10	3/10	Yang	Sunshine	Rice (P+GI)
Banga Birol (Cont)	21/9	3/10	P. Kel	BDSHIP	Cont
Dea Captain	3/10	3/10	Sing	Araden	P. Mat
Banglar Mout (Cont)	19/9	4/10	Sing	BSC	Cont
Boxer Capt Cook (Cont)	26/9/00	4/10	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont
Min Jiang	4/10	4/10	Shanghai	BD Ship	GI (S. Cargo)
Lucky Emblem (72)	17/09	5/10	Yang	Everett	GI (S. Cargo)
Banga Birol (Cont)	21/9	5/10	Sing	BSC	Cont
Banglar Rabi (Cont)	24/9	5/10	Sing	BSC	Cont
OSG Argosy (Cont)	28/9	5/10	CBO	Everest	Cont
Asian Saffron	6/10	6/10	Yang	Everett	GI (S. Coal)
Ganda Satria	6/10	6/10	Indo	Dehmut	TSP
Joy Miracle (72)	17/9	6/10	Jaka	SSSL	GI (S. Prod)
Arabella (Cont)	28/9	6/10	Sing	QCSL	Cont
Hpaan	10/6	6/10	Yang	MTA	Cont
Kota Cahaya (Cont)	26/9	7/10	Sing	Pil/BDI	Cont
Jurong Balsam (Cont)	1/10	7/10	Sing	BD Ship	Cont
Leopard-1	7/10	7/10	SBS	C Clunk (Hyundai)	Cont
Kota Naga (Cont)	27/09	8/10	Sing	Pil/BDI	Cont
QCSL Pintail (Cont)	27/9	8/10	Sing	QCSL	Cont
Tog De Ping	8/10	8/10	S. Hai	OWSL	-
Subsidiary Barge: Zhong Ren	18/10	8/10	S. Hai	OWSL	-
Patheon	8/10	8/10	Yang	MTA	Rice (P)
Orelin Independence (Cont)	1/10	10/10	10/10	BD Ship	Cont
Pioneer Sun	8/10	10/10	Nikola	Litmond	Cont
Banga Birol (Cont)	1/10	10/10	Sing	BD Ship	Cont
Yostina	12/10	10/10	Okha	SMSL	Cont
QCSL Teal (Cont)	2/10	12/10	Sing	QCSL	Cont
Kota Berjaya (Cont)	1/10	13/10	Sing	Pil/BDI	Cont

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaia	-	-	BBAL	17/8
Dea Champion	-	Sing	Araden	R (24/9)
Royal Eastern	-	Sing	BBAL	28/9
Sea Bulk Command	-	-	ISS	R/A (27/9)
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Araden	R/A
(2/10)	-	-	-	-
SEA Bulk Danah	-	-	Araden	3/10

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Bay Fortune	GI/Rice (P)	Yang	SMSL	20/9
Ocean-1	GI (S. Prod)	Yang	SMSL	28/9
Alas (18)	GI (S. Prod)	Halal	H&S	2/10

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Pacific Emerald	GI (Copra)	Sing	Allseas	21/9
Pride	Salt (TCB)	Kand	UML	22/9
Feng Tai	Sugar (TCB)	Mumb	CCML	23/9
Hans	Salt (TCB)	P. Kala	SBS	25/9
Chipp Venture	CDSO	Bah	BSA	28/9
Bright Sea	C. Clunk	Krabi	MBL	30/9
Hyderabad	Rice (P)	Kara	BSC	30/9
DAFU (Cont)	Cont	-	RSL	26/9

Vessels awaiting instruction:

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Urmi	-	-	BSC	R/A (20/9)
Banglar Gourab	-	-	BSC	R/A (2/10)

Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Linghai-18	GI (Maize)	Ying	BSL	21/9
Malika Naree	TSP/P	Durb	BSL	1/10
Sea Destiny	MOBP	ROL	Litmond	25/9
Allegro	Scraping	Tuti	RML	R/A (27/9)
Westwind	Scraping	Tuti	UML	28/9
Accord	Cement	-	Viking	5/4
Revenge	-	-	Sunshine	R/A
(9/10)	-	-	-	-
Xing Ye	Rice (G)	-	MB CSL	R/A (20/6)
Karya Sentosa	Rice (G)	-	USTC	R/A (9/8)

Movement of vessels for 4.10.2000

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/5 Bao Yun Shan	J/13 B Mon	J/3 Topaz To J/5
J/9 Al Bauraq	J/12 B Birol	-
J/10 Aptamariner	J/3 Alas	-
J/11 OSG Alpha	J/10 Bay Fortune	-
J/12 Jaani	J/10 Hyderabad	-
J/13 Pavonis	NB Min Jiang	-
-	J/11 OSG Argosy	-
-	J/9 Bright Sea	-
-	Ocean-1	-
-	DOJ Torm Lily	-
-	RM/4 Novo Voyager	-

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

BCIC International

Tender Notice

বিস্তারিত পূর্ণ শিলায় জাতীয় অর্থায়ন প্রতিষ্ঠান

Managing Director, Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi, Bangladesh invites sealed quotation on two envelopes system for supply of White Metal under Tender No. UFFL/FP-CMW/3/2000-2001/368 & Incoloy Plate/ Sheet, Round Bar, Hexagonal Bar Stud Bolt & Nut under Tender No. UFFL/FP-CMW/1/99-2000/369 on C&F(C) Chittagong Sea Port/Dhaka Airport basis. Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM on 20.11.2000 & 22.11.2000 respectively. Tender documents will be available at Tk 50/- & Tk 100/- (non-refundable) for each set respectively from (1) Accounts Division, BCIC, 30-31, Dikusha C/A, Dhaka (2) BCIC, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (3) UFFL.

No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC- 857-25/9/2000

DFP-23486-27/9

G-1719

AGRANI BANK WASA BRANCH, KAWRAN BAZAR DHAKA AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the undersigned for sale of following goods as it is where it is basis. The goods can be inspected by the intending tenderer's by contacting the undersigned during office hours on 4.10.2000 & 5.10.2000. Tender should be quoted for all items of goods in the sealed tender box kept in the office of the Dy. General Manager, Agrani Bank, Zonal office, Dhaka North Zone, 32, B.B. Avenue (2nd floor) Dhaka on 11.10.2000 from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. The tender box will be opened on the same day at 3.00 p.m. in the presence of tenderer's who may like to be present. Every tender must accompany earnest money equivalent to 10% of the quoted value in the form of bank Draft/Pay order favouring "AGRANI BANK, WASA BRANCH, DHAKA" from any schedule Bank.

Successful tenderer will be required to take delivery of the entire consignment on full payment of the balance at a time within 7 days from the date of acceptance of tender failing which the earnest money will be forfeited. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidders will be refunded in due course.

The Bank authority reserve the right to accept or reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Regarding description, quality, quantity etc of the goods it may be noted that the same have been given as per Bank's records without any risk and responsibility on the part of the bank authority. It will be absolute responsibility of the tenderer to verify there before submission of tender. Any conditional offer will be liable for outright rejection.

SL. NO.	Description of goods	Quantity
CC(P)		
01.	Pigment (Korea)	2 Drums
02.	Novoparm (Korea)	1 Drums
LIM		
01.	Chips (Japan)	17 Drums
02.	Polenexylene (Songapore)	17 Drums
03.	Butyle acitate (Thailand)	8 Drums
04.	Resin (Korea)	10 Drums
05.	Butyleacitate (Thailand)	21 Drums
06.	Resin (Korea)	20 Drums
07.	Resin (Korea)	03 Drums
08.	Resin (Korea)	10 Drums
09.	Resin (Korea)	8 Drums

(MD. SHAMSUL ALAM)
Asstt. General Manager
Agrani Bank, WASA Branch
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd
(A Company of Petrobangla)
"Titas Gas Bhaban," 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
Phone: 8119380 PABX: 8112135-42, Extn. 7146 Fax: 880-2-9120513

Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Procurement of Gas Line Pipes and Pipeline Materials under Cash Foreign Exchange

Date of Issuance of IFB: 25-09-2000

1. Sealed bids are invited from the bona fide manufacturers or their authorised agents for supply of Gas Line Pipes & Pipeline Materials as listed below under Cash Foreign Exchange:

Sl No
